The I/O Connector

FEBRUARY 1989

Newsletter of the San Diego ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

San Diego
Atari Computer
Enthusiasts

P.O. Box 203076, San Diego, CA 92120

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The San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

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Newsletter Submissions: Send all text and graphics to the club P O Box or Sig 1 of the S.D.A.C,E. BBS by the 30th of the month for inclusion the next month. Text should be ASCII or Word Writter. Graphics should be high-res DEGAS or .IMG.

Mailing Address
S.D.A.C.E,
P O Box 203076
San Diego, CA 92120

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Our President Writes

by Tom Briant

From the upcoming trade shows and wild parties file comes notice of two shows, the World of Atari show at the Disneyland Hotel on April 22 and 23, and the 14th Annual West Coast Computer Faire in San Francisco, March 17–19, at Brooks Hall and the Civic Auditorium.

The World of Atari will feature all Atari systems from game machines and 8–bit computers, to the ST and Mega systems. Hmn, wonder if the laptop and the 68030 machine will appear, too? Of course, you can probably score some great deals at the show, too.Airfare, car rentals, and lodging discounts are available to exhibitors and attendees. For Disneyland hotel reservations, call 1–503–673–2259.

For airline reservations, call 1–800–331–1198. And read the blurb on the facing page, for cryin' out loud!

The West Coast Computer Faire probably won't feature much Atari stuff outside of the A.B.A.C.U.S. booth. Pick up a Mac or IBM magazine for more details.

Speaking of shows, S.D.A.C.E. demonstrated the full potential of the ST before the San Diego Computer Society on January 21. I made some opening remarks, then Mark Booth, Steve Bridges, Bob Ames, Nancy Rivers, and Mike Street took over.

Mark showed off the Spectre 128 cartridge and software, surprising everyone by running Mac software faster than a Mac SE. And then he capped off the presentation with some DeskJet printouts from Ready, Set, Go!

Next, Steve Bridges demonstrated Calamus, the high end German DTP package, passing around some printouts. The audience admitted that Calamus does very good text and graphics.

Steve then demonstrated ZZ Lazy Paint, a French program for manipulating monochrome bit–mapped images. In Steve's opinion, ZZ Lazy Paint beats Migraph's Touch–Up. ZZ Lazy can directly import scanned images, which Touch–Up can't do yet.

Only one problem...ZZ Lazy Paint has no U.S. distributor. Computer Outlet, where Steve works, got a beta copy at COMDEX from the French publishers.

Back to the here and now. Nancy Rivers and Bob Ames gave the two best presentations. They both showed their exceptional accomplishments with Publisher ST. Bob and Nancy, you're GOOD! I hope to get a copy of Nancy's address book form, a file which many of us could use.

The show concluded with a hasty MIDI demo using Mike Street's Casio sythesizer and some Mozart files from a January Disk of the Month. We had to call it quits at that point, as S.D.C.S. must vacate the premises by 4 p.m.

I mentioned Touch–Up and ZZ Lazy Paint. Both are good products, but quite often you'd sacrifice a few features for the convenience of a Desk Accessory.

Now you can get one! Michael Bergman wrote a Desk Accessory enabling you to edit .IMG, MacPaint, and high–res Degas pictures.

As soon as I finish writing this, I'm gonna go buy one at Computer Outlet, so Mike can purchase a Mega 4 and I can write a review.

Migraph sent us a copy of Touch–Up for review purposes. I have it, and if you want to write a review, call me at 581–2477. If you wrote a review of Mike's IMG Editor D/A, the editor needs that, too. Call him at 263–8591.

Now for Desktop Publishing. Bob lent me the Calamus manual,and I found it appalling BAD. The Calamus manual sneers at Publish ST's use of fixed raster fonts, but the Publish ST manual puts the Calamus manual to shame. The Calamus manual lacks an index. Honest, no index. No tutorial, either.

Michtron will start distributing Fleet Street Publisher v2.0 on February 13th. To spur sales, they will sell you a copy for $50.00, plus $5.00 for UPS 2d Day shipping, and a copy of your present DTP program's copyright page. Send it off to Fleet Street Publisher Offer, Michtron, 576 South Telegraph, Pontiac, MI 48053.

As for PageStream, version 1.5 improved its performance. The hard–copy it produces looks much better than plain old Publishing Partner, but Herb Code of A.B.A.C.U.S. states you will crash if you hit 'Return' to clear the title screen. You must go up to the Menu Bar under 'File' and choose either 'New' or 'Load'.

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GOS/Total Control System Update

by David R. Sullivan

You probably first heard of GOE back in Augest/September of 1988, when GOE was shown at the 1988 AtariFest in Glendale, CA. A DEMO Disk followed in October on GEnie and in user groups.

Now, January 1989, GOE is about to be released. GOE has been tested over the last three to four weeks to insure that it is a bug-free and usable product, it is my hope that GOE will become the new standard OS for the Atari 8-bit computers.

STATUS OF GOE:

A) We are currently running behind schedule, this is DUE to the dificulty and time needed to completely develop a cartridge based product that provides a new and exciting operating environment while maintaining 100% compatability with **ALL** existing software.

Added to the level of programming required, GOE was originally being developed in a situation that required over 15 minutes to test a single change in GOE -- that has been corrected (curtesy of Atari, CORP. and ICD's extensive help).

B) GOE is in it's final debugging stages, and provided that it receives a clean bill of health, GOE will be shipped the first week of February.

C) Several beta testers have been using GOE for two weeks now, all press and other qualified people will receive beta cartridges one week ahead of shipping.

D) The Turbo 816 and GOE, GOE will be tested with the Turbo 816 before it is shipped to insure compatability. A Turbo 816 version is planned, this will be a full 16-bit version of GOE. I am communicating with DataQue in an attempt to make GOE the standard for the Turbo 816, the advantage of the Turbo 816 is tremendous and gives you a true 16-bit computer at a great price!

E) I am communicating with Atari, CORP. keeping an open ear to their ideas. With Atari selling thousands of 800xl, 130xe and XEGS computers, the Atari 8-bit future looks bright. Not to mention the support Atari CORP. is giving in the entertainment area.

F) Advance order's, if you have placed an advance order, it will be filled with top priority. As a BONUS, all people ordering in advance will receive a free BONUS Disk containing some exciting new software.

G) Price: The retail price of GOE is $79.95, all discounts for advance orders are now void. User Group discounts are available.

H) If you have requested information, you will receive a mailer the first week of February notifying you that GOE is shipping and providing more information about GOE.

Dealers, dealers packets are now ready and will be sent out within the next two weeks. Thank you for your support, the Atari 8 bit users need you.

I realize many of you have been waiting for GOE since late October, and I know it is hard to wait for an exciting new piece of Atari 8-bit software; but I do not want GOE to be a product that is simply a toy. If GOE and the Atari 8-bit are going to have a successful future together then GOE MUST BE A PROGRAM THAT YOU WILL USE.

GOE will not be shipped until it is complete and fulfills your needs.

Allowing press to be released about GOE as early as May, 1988 was not under my control nor my intent. The official press released in September/October 1988 was a little early but has been useful and has shown the public what GOE is via the DEMO released on GEnie.

Once the information was about, I had to make the best of it and did not count on some of the misleading information I have been delt, or some of the legal problems that I would encounter.

Stay tuned to the GEnie network for more information, GEnie is my link to you so let your thoughts be known.

goPaint and goWrite DEMO versions will be released shortly after GOE starts shipping, but have been put on hold until then. Upon shipment, Total Control Systems will start supporting you with easy and clear example programs, useful public domain programs and powerful commercial programs.

A download area here on GEnie will be your source for GOE public domain software. A new private area will be setup for GOE users and GOE developers where you can ask your questions.

The current public area, CATegory 5, TOPic 24 will be used to convey public information and answer questions to the general public.

Total Control Systems is working hard to make your Atari 8-bit future a bright one, and we look forward to your support of our quality products.

GEnie ID: D.SULLIVAN4 (David R. Sullivan) GOE Area: Atari8, CAT 5, TOP 24

For information about access on OTHER services; information about GOE; or information about other TCS products please contact us at:Total Control Systems, 4156 Tolowa Street, San Diego, CA 92117 (619)270-0111.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 20th at 6:30 pm.

The March **Workshop** will be Thursday, March 2nd at he North Park Adult Center (across from Folsom's Racquetball Court) at 6:30 pm. The monthly **Meeting** will be Monday, March 20th at the North Park Recreation Center Social Room at 6:30 pm.

For Beginners only

▪ A timely reprint from the Newsletter of the Fresno ST Group for those of you who, like me, have a brand new modem with no idea of what it all means.

by Phillip S. Pittz

I know that some of us banter around terms and phrases that others, the beginners, regard as Latin. I remember when I first began playing around with my modem, it took me months just figuring out what the differences between "upload" and "download" were. Maybe I can help by listing some basic definitions of some basic terms so that the next time someone says, "My transfer protocol is Xmodem set for 1200 baud at full duplex," you'll know exactly what they're talking about. These explanations come from two sources; an article by Stephen Couchman in the July/August 1988 issue of ***ReSet Magazine*** and the index of the ***Owner's Guide of ST Talk Professional*** by Hank Fay.

ARC: Refers to *archiving* a file. When this term is used, it means that a text file or program has been *crunched* in size and made smaller to allow more program to fit onto disk space. The program will not run until you *de-arc* it and return it to its original state.

ASCII: American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a standardized set of one-byte codes which represent characters, numerals, punctuation, special *control codes* and synmbols. For example: the ASCII code for the letter *A* is 65.

Baud: This refers to how fast data can be transferred over telephone lines. Usually equated with *bits per second* on microcomputer systems. This speed can range from 300 to 2400 baud and sometimes higher. The term *baud* comes from the name Emile Baudot, who figured out a way for telegraph companies to put five signals on one line.

BBS: Bulletin Board Service, you call with your computer and talk with a program on someone else's computer. Once there, you can read messages posted on various topics or leave private messages for particular people. Some BBS's have public domain programs which you can download.

Bit: The unit of information that represents one of two possible states, usually one or zero.

Block: An anount of information sent at once over the telephone lines. Generally, most file transfers send information in chunks of 128 bytes called a *block*.

BPS: Bits Per Second, the number of units of data that may be sent over a modem line in one second. *1200 baud* is equivalent to 1200 bits or approximately 12 characters per second.

Byte: A sequence of 8 bits. The combination *00100000* equals 32, and represents the space character (" ") in the ASCII character set.

CompuServe: A national information network through which you can access information and public domain programs for your ST. Also other information services are available including shopping and airline schedules. You dial a local number, connecting you by a data network to CompuServe's computers.

Checksum: An error-detedtion mechanism used in file transfer protocols such as *XMODEM*. A checksum represents the sum of the data bytes that are being transferred in the block. It is prone to random errors on a noisy line.

CRC: Cyclical Redundancy Check, a means of error detection that is used in protocols such as *X-MODEM-CRC*. It is a more reliable error-dectection mechanism than the checksum method.

Download: To transfer a file from another computer to your computer.

Continued next page.

8-bit Magazines & New Products

by Frank Miller

It is my humble opinion that the best 8-bit publications are ***ANTIC*** and ***ANALOG COMPUTING***, in that order. They both offer quite a number of 8-bit programs as well as a wide variety of Atari 8-bit hardware.

ANTIC's February 1989 issue claims to be your one hundred percent 8-bit magazine. The past three years, the publication has offered an optional two-sided disk for a nominal fee. Most of the disk programs are type-ins. However, it does include one or two game programs. The annual subscription is $28.00 for 12 issues for the magazine alone, $59.95 with a two-sided disk.

ANALOG COMPUTING is primarily an 8-Bit magazine (***ST-LOG*** is its ST counter-part.) It usually includes four or five type-in programs and as many as eight programs in the disk version. Annual subscription is $28.00 for 12 issues of the magazine alone, and $79.00 with a two-sided disk.

Another publication for both 8-Bit and St is ***ATARI EXPLORER***, published every two months at an annual subscription price of $14.95, no disk included. It has all the latest news from Atari Corporation and usually includes some type-in programs,

Flash from my mail box: **ALPHA SYSTEMS** offers "New for your 8-Bit Atari" **CHEAT!**, play your favorite games with unlimited lives, and **POP-N-ROCKER**, an exciting new game with digitized sound.

"New for your ST," they offer **BEAT BOX** to turn your ST into a digital drum machine, **SWITCH/BACK**, an inovative new hardware/software package, and **DIGI SPEC** which displays Computer-eyes pictures in 512 colors.

For information and a listing of products , write to ALPHA SYSTEMS, 1012 Skyline Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056.

CLASSIFIEDS

▪ **FOR SALE** "Atari Upgrade Board," E. A. Brown 2/4 Upgrade Board with 512K – $190.00. Call Francis Smith, 466–1378.

▪ **FOR SALE** "Ez Ram," 1/2 megabyte upgrade for 520 ST – $100.00; "Magic Sac Plus," version 4.5, manual, software & chips – $100.00. Call Charlie Snyder, 481–1620

▪ **DESKTOP PUBLISHING** Put my Mega 4 Laser System and 20 years of publishing/layout experience to work for you. Newsletters, flyers, posters, mailing lists, business forms, etc. Your imput in my layouts at cheap, cheap rates or let me do it all for you at rates still less than the big boys charge. Call Bob Ames, 263–8591.

▪ **CLASSIFIEDS ADS are free to members, but please, written ads only. Send your ad to the club PO Box by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.**

Atari BBS List

SDACE–BBS XE/ST
284–3821

COMPUTER PLUS XE/ST
691–7862

COMPUTER OUTLET ST
282–6815

COMPUTER BLVD ST
670–1095

SMART 520 ST
480–9686/726–4419

THE LORD'S HOUSE XE
579–7354

SHERWOOD FOREST XE
273–5603

Updates & Additions Welcome

Duplex: Technically, this refers to whether two signals *full duplex* or one signal *half duplex* can be sent on the same line. Occasionally on some long distance phone services, you might be sent over a satelite which can only handle *half duplex* transmission: you will notice that when one of you talks the other can't be heard. *Half duplex* writes each letter you type on the screen. In full duplex, each letter you type is echoed by the other computer; so that the key you press (and then see appear on your screen) has actually made a round trip. Technically, this is known as *echoplex*, but over the years has come to be known as *full duplex*. In other words, *half duplex* means data will be transmitted in only one direction at a time while *full duplex* allows simultaneous two–way transmission.

GEnie: The General Electric Network for Information Exchange. You dial a local number and are hooked in through a data network to GEnie's computers. GEnie has sections for Atari Computers and Atari Developers.

Handshaking: The exchange of signals between two computer systems before starting data transmission. Example: the acknowledgement and rejection of data blocks during an XMODEM file transfer.

Hit: The corruption of data, such as the change of a bit from a zero to a one, on a noisy telephone line. This may render the transfered files unusable, if it is a program.

Information Network: GEnie, CompuServe, BIX, and orhers are called Information Networks since they allow information to be sent and received from many different locations.

Online: Means you are connected with another computer. The opposite of this is *offline*.

Modem: A device that MOdulates (changes from digital information to analog sounds) and DEModulates (changes from anlog sounds to digital information) signals transmitted over telephone lines.

Parity: A crude error–detection mechanism. An extra bit is appended to each character so that the sum of its bits is always odd or even. For example: if even parity is used, a "1" bit will be appended to the ASCII code for the character "5" (53, or 00100011 binary) to make the sum of the bits even: "001000111" has four "1" bits – an even number.

Protocol: A set of rules established for the transmission and reception of data so that data exchange, such as file transfers, is possible. *XMODEM* and *YMODEM* (an enhanced version of *XMODEM*) are examples. A file to be transferred is divided into blocks and transmitted from the sender to the receiver, one block at a time, with error detection.

Start Bit: A special bit used to signal the beginning of a character to be transmitted.

Stop Bit: A special bit used to signal the end of a transmitted character.

Terminal emulation: The ability of a program or terminal to stimulate the actions of a specific terminal, such as Digital Equipment Corporation's VT100, or International Business Machine's IBM 3270.

Upload: To transfer a file from your computer to another computer.

The Creed

▪ The following is reprinted from *Atari Interface Magazine* (Ann Arbor, MI) whose member club GLASS (Troy, MI) reprinted it from the BASE users group (Bakersfield, CA) – with appropriate thank-you's all the way around. Yes Virgina, there is a grapevine!

In the beginning there were fingers. And then there was an Abacus. And it was a start.

At this point in history, it was a long wait for silicon. We had to wait for a lot of small things, like Ben Franklin, frying himself on a kite, Marconi, Jobs, the WOZ, and Bushnell.

And lo and behold, Bushnell discovered an Egg. And the Egg was called "PONG." And thus the Home Video Game was born. And this added to the power that had been laid down by The Great Hackers That Came Before.

And finally Home Computers were born. And it was good.

But there was a dark cloud.

Once in their new homes, the Home Computer gave birth to the User. And the Users were alone in the wilderness. And they cried into the void. Finding no answer, they found themselves.

And the Users Groups were formed. And it was good.

And they banded together. Tribe unto tribe. Each seeking it's own maker (or third party manufacturer). Apple unto Apple, Atari unto Atari, Commodore unto Commodore, IBM and it's clones, and Orphan unto Orphan.

A lucky few tribes found their makers. Most found nothing. Others were abandoned and know so. But still they came together. And it was good. The User Groups survived when the makers had forsaken them.

The User Groups came together in the dark and will be there until the door of obsolescence squeaks its hinges for the last time.

If you trust in the maker and he forsakes you, turn to your brethren. They will not forsake you. Seek ye out thy brethren for they shall help you find the light.

Yea, there are many soothsayers and false prophets that shall cause many doubts in your path and faith. Put your faith in your brethren for they have not designs on your soul (or wallet).

We banded together because we had no choice. We of the silicon tribes declare our allegiance to ourselves and our brethren.

"Let it be known from this time forward, we of the tribes do not bow down to any self serving God. For we will survive as we have always done, relying on each other and ourselves. Do not lie to us, for we talk to each other more than you will ever realize. Demi Gods come and go, trademarks last longer but even they can fade. Above all, we demand respect. For we are NOT the children of the computer industry. We are its FUTURE!"

Plan now to attend the

WORLD OF ATARI

APRIL 22 -23, 1989

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ADMISSION

$5.00 - 1 day
$7.00 - 2 day

Children under 11 accompanied by adult FREE!

Contact your user group for advance purchase discount tickets.

Discount tickets to Universal Studios, Knotts Berry Farm, Disneyland, Spruce Goose, Queen Mary and FREE TV show tickets also availableFor additional information, call (503) 673-2259

Fly American Airlines
40% disount off coach fares or 5% off the lowest available RT fare.

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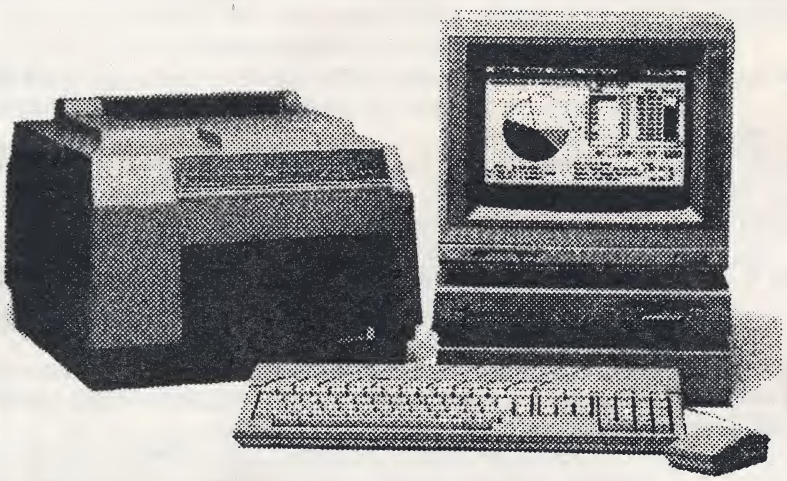
WORLD OF ATARI - DETROIT, MI - JUNE 24 - 25, 1989

Computer Outlet
DTP System Price Sheet

ATARI®



Atari ST Systems

AtariMEGA2ST(2MBB RAM)	$1195.99	Atari MEGA 4ST (4 MEG RAM)	$1795.99
Atari 520STfm (512K RAM)	$520.99	Atari 1040ST (1 MEG RAM)	$799.99
SF354 Disk Drive Single Sided	$179.99	SF314 Disk Drive Double Sided	$229.99
Atari SM124 Monochrome Monitor	$179.99	Atari SC1224 Color RGB Monitor	$359.99
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MEGA ST2 Color System	**$1499.99**	**MEGA ST4 Color System**	**$2099.99**
520STfm Mono System	**$699.99**	**1040ST Mono System**	**$949.99**
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Atari Desktop Publishing System Prices

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Atari 1040 ST
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Star NX-1000 Printer
All required cables

Under $1250

Advanced Entry System
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20 Meg Hard Disk
Timeworks DTP
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20 Meg Hard Disk
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